

AMENDMENTIn the Claims:

Please withdraw claim 75, without prejudice, and amend claims 65, 69, and 76-83 as follows.

Dut E1
65. (Twice Amended) A system for conducting an electronic auction between a plurality of potential bidders, the plurality of potential bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising:

means for receiving bid information from a first bidder for said lot; and

D
means for generating a transformed bid using at least said bid information, said generated transformed bid being used to effect a relative comparison of transformed bids, said relative comparison of transformed bids enabling submitted bids, defined in one or more bidder-specific contexts, to be compared on a common competitive basis;

wherein said means for generating generates a non-zero net present value bid using a predefined discount rate structure and received multi-segment bidding parameters, said non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of a series of payments over a plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure.

Dut E2
D2
69. (Twice Amended) A method of participating in an electronic auction between a plurality of potential bidders, the plurality of potential bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving bid information from a bidder for said lot;

(b) generating a transformed bid using at least said bid information; and

D²
(c) transmitting transformed bid information to an auction server, said transformed bid information enabling said auction server to generate a relative comparison of bids, originally defined in one or more bidder-specific contexts, on a common competitive basis;

wherein step (b) comprises the step of generating a non-zero net present value bid using a predefined discount rate structure and received multi-segment bidding parameters, said non-zero net present value bid representing a sum of a series of payments over a plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using said predefined discount rate structure.

D³
Sub E3
76. (Amended) A method of conducting an electronic online auction between a plurality of bidders, the plurality of bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving net present value bid information from a bidder for the lot;

(b) generating a non-zero net present value bid value using said net present value bid information, said non-zero net present value bid value representing a sum of a series of payments over a plurality of contract term segments which are discounted to a present value using a predefined discount rate structure; and

(c) transmitting non-zero net present value bid information to a plurality of bidders, said non-zero net present value bid information enabling a plurality of bidders to view non-zero net present value bids submitted by a plurality of bidders.

D⁴
Sub E4
80. (Amended) A system for conducting an electronic online auction between a plurality of bidders, the plurality of bidders competing for a lot having at least one product, comprising:

means for receiving net present value bid information from a bidder for the lot;

means for generating a non-zero net present value bid value using said net present value bid information, said non-zero net present value bid value representing a sum of a